

Threats In Schools: A New Solution

Tracking Trouble and Treating Threats

New Technology Tracks Trouble in Schools

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Executive Summary

The leaders of our nation's schools are under tremendous pressure. Not only are they tasked with ensuring that every child receives an excellent education; they are also expected to provide a safe and secure sanctuary for learning. This, at a time when it seems incidents in schools have become increasingly more violent and the number of on-site threats appear to be soaring.

How can schools keep threats outside their doors? How can schools protect teachers/staff from violent confrontations inside their doors? Taking a cue from businesses, schools have begun using visitor management programs (VMP) to control the flow of visitors and prevent unwanted guests.

In this paper, we will show you the significant strengths and attributes of the leading visitor management programs. More importantly, we will identify the one, critical weakness they all share - and we will introduce you to CausBuzz: the one amazing solution.

Introduction

Audience

This white paper is primarily intended for teachers, community leaders, and parents.

About This White Paper

This white paper looks at critical safety and security concerns that exist in our nation's K-12 schools. It presents an analysis of the common methods schools use to deter these threats and evaluates new technology schools are using to increase their chances for success.

Our research includes data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Center for Education Statistics, and the National Education Association.

Problem Statement

While we like to envision schools as being safe and encouraging environments for our children, the facts all too often dispute this image. Throughout the history of compulsory education in this country, violent incidents have occurred in schools.¹ Unfortunately, this trend continues. We read and hear about episodes like these:

The injuries she sustained were so severe that there was irreversible brain damage, and as a result she is no longer able to work as a teacher

In May of 2013, a veteran elementary school teacher was brutally attacked by a parent in her classroom. Unable to call for help, the teacher suffered repeated blows to her body and head from a custodial broom. The injuries she sustained were so severe that they left her with irreversible brain damage. As a result she is no longer able to work as a teacher.²

In February of 2014, an Orlando, Florida high school teacher was physically attacked and injured by a parent in front of her students during an after-school tutoring session. The teacher desperately attempted to call for help using her desk phone, but, the parent prevented her from doing so. Two of her students were eventually able to subdue the parent, but not without putting themselves at considerable risk.³

The stories include threats and attacks from students, as well. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that in 2012, 352,900

¹ Phaneuf, S. (2009). *Security in Schools: Its Effects on Students*. El Paso: LFB Scholarly Publishing.

² Duffy, K. (2014, January 6). *Parent's Attack on Elementary School Teacher Caught on Camera*. Retrieved from WCTV News: <http://www.wctv.tv/home/headlines/Parent-Attacks-Teacher-Over-Visitors-Pass-206514261.html>

³ DeForest, M. (2014, February 21). *Click Orlando WKMG Local 6 News*. Retrieved from Parent Attacked teacher inside Dr. Phillips High School classroom, officials say: <http://www.clickorlando.com/news/parent-attacked-teacher-inside-dr-phillips-high-school-classroom-officials-say/24603240>

teachers in the nation's public and private schools were threatened with injury - and more than 170,000 of them were physically attacked by students. That translates into the sad fact that, in 2012, nearly ten percent of the nation's teachers were threatened and over five percent were actually attacked by students within their schools.

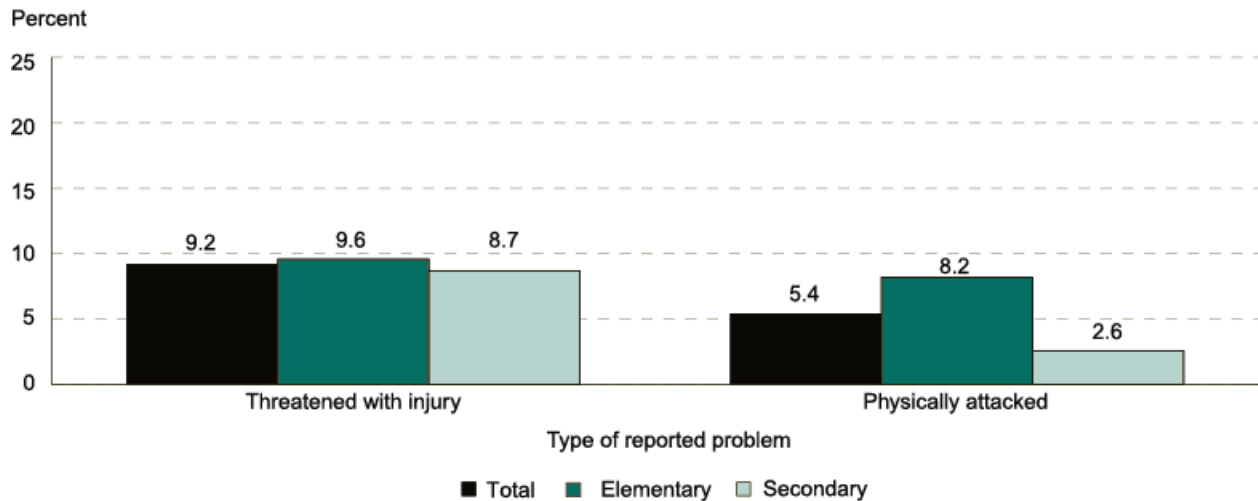


Figure 1 US Dept of Education: Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2013

Of course teachers and staff are not the only ones at risk. Students are often the victims of threats and violence within our schools. The number of incidents (physical attacks, theft, possession of firearms and weapons) that are reported to law enforcement by middle and high school students is staggering.⁴ In 2012, students ages 12 to 18 experienced nearly 1.4 million non-fatal

⁴ "Violent incidents" include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attack or fight with or without a weapon, threat of physical attack with or without a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon.

"Serious violent incidents" include rape, sexual battery other than rape, physical attack or fight with a weapon, threat of physical attack with a weapon, and robbery with or without a weapon.

"Theft or larceny" (taking things worth over \$10 without personal confrontation) was defined for respondents as "the unlawful taking of another person's property without personal confrontation, threat, violence, or bodily harm." This includes pocket picking, stealing a purse or backpack (if left unattended or no force was used to take it from owner), theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle or motor vehicle parts or accessories, theft of a bicycle, theft from a vending machine, and all other types of thefts.

"Other incidents" include possession of a firearm or explosive device; possession of a knife or sharp object; distribution, possession, or use of illegal drugs or alcohol; vandalism; and inappropriate distribution, possession, or use of prescription drugs. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2009–10 School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS), 2010.

victimizations at school, including 615,600 thefts and 749,200 violent victimizations.⁵

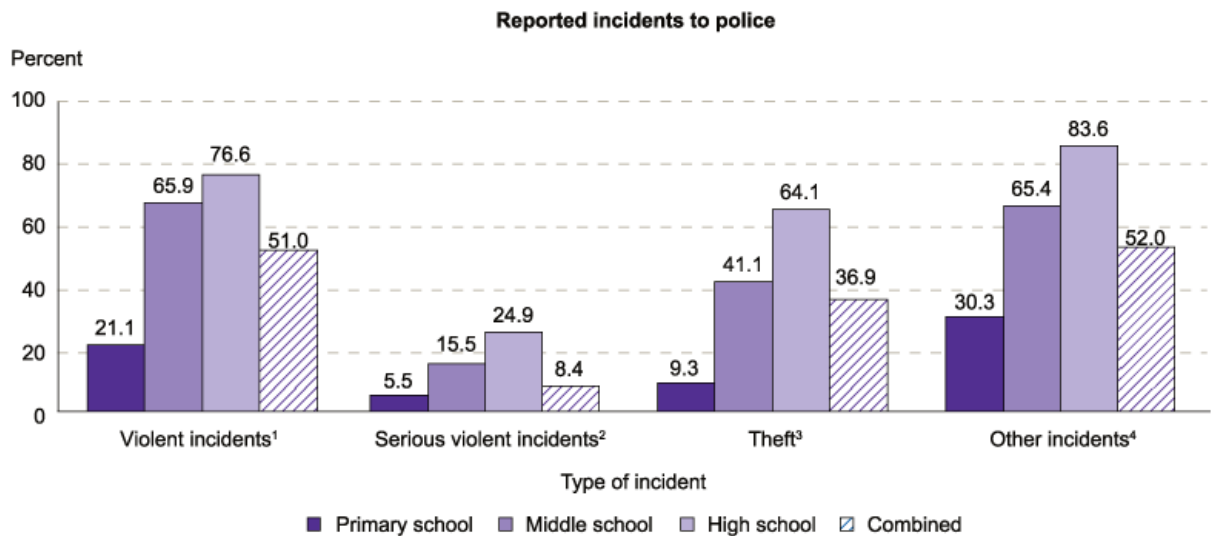


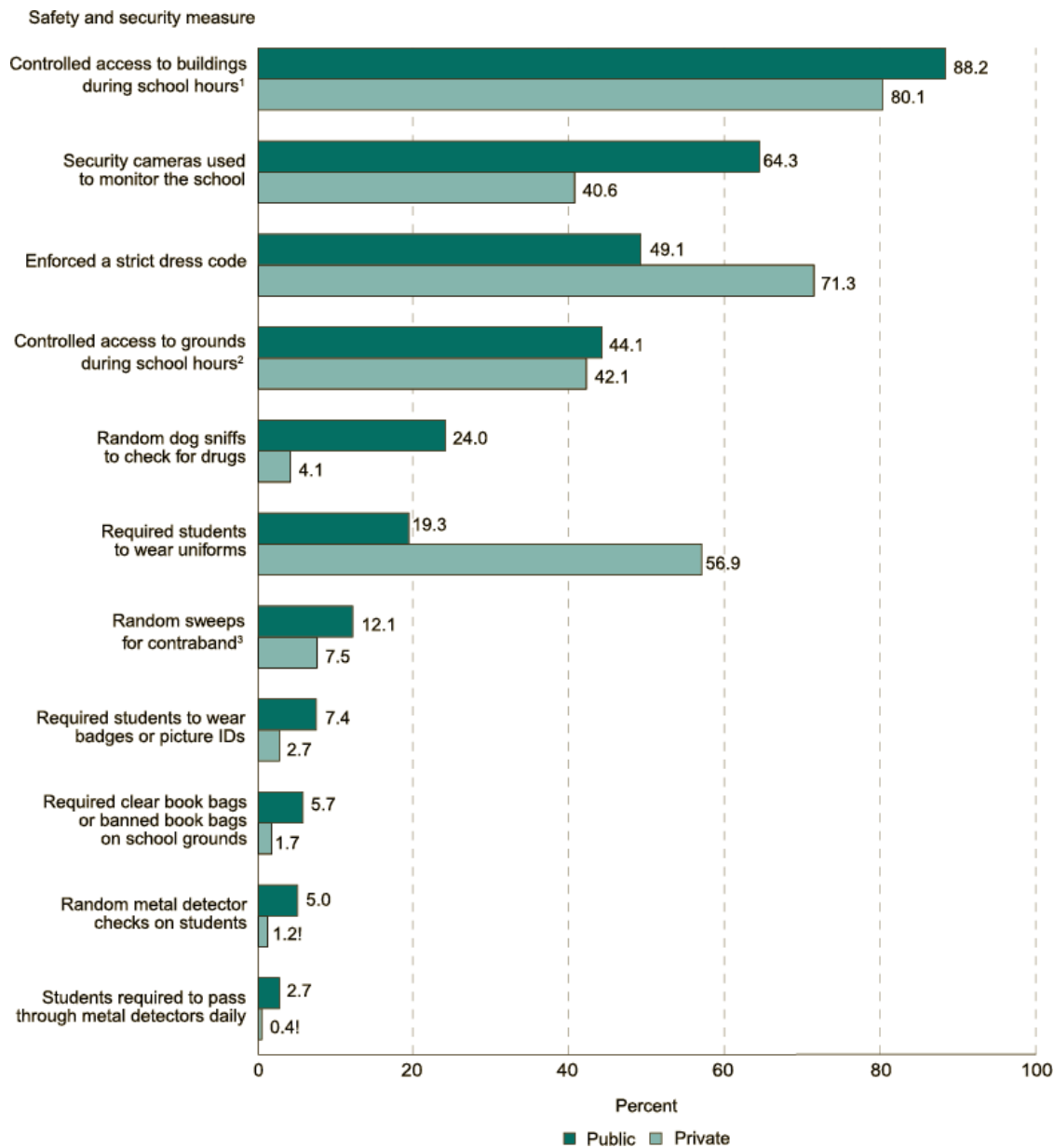
Figure 2 US Dept of Education: Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2012

Combating the Problem

Schools everywhere - parochial, private, and public - deal with crime, disruptions and violence in varying frequencies and magnitudes.⁶ No school is exempt. In response, schools employ a broad range of security measures to protect the safety of students and faculty.

⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2014, June 10) *Indicators of School Crime and Safety 2013*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5008>

⁶ Phaneuf, S. (2009). *Security in Schools: Its Effects on Students*. El Paso: LFB Scholarly Publishing.



The graph shows that most schools try to control access to buildings and grounds and they often use security cameras to monitor the movement of students and visitors. However, front desk security checks provide no protection once the student or visitor is inside the building. And security cameras are only effective if someone is constantly monitoring them. Lack of adequate security personnel limits both of these forms of security. Unfortunately, it has to be noted; School security cameras are of most use only as an investigatory tool - after an incident has occurred. So, what can schools do?

“If there is even one step we can take to save another child, or another parent, or another town, from the grief that has visited Tucson, and Aurora, and Oak Creek, and Newtown, and communities from Columbine to Blacksburg before that -- then surely we have an obligation to try.”

Visitor Management

During President Obama’s 2012 address on violence in schools he stated, “If there is even one step we can take to save another child, or another parent, or another town, from the grief that has visited Tucson, and Aurora, and Oak Creek, and Newtown, and communities from Columbine to Blacksburg before that -- then surely we have an obligation to try.”⁷

Figuring out ways to effectively manage the flow and subsequent behavior of school visitors and students is a challenge. In an effort to prevent crime from occurring at their sites, many schools have joined business organizations in implementing visitor management systems to help ensure the safety of students and school personnel.

Visitor Management Programs

A recent article in *Security Magazine* highlighted characteristics of a successful visitor management program. The most effective programs check the ID for each visitor, identify whom they are visiting, track visitors when they are on-site, and dictate the areas of the facility visitors are authorized to enter. Visitor management programs that are integrated with external watch-list databases and systems that perform real-time background checks have additional value.⁸

There are a number of visitor management programs available for schools. Among the leading providers are Raptor V, Hall Pass, KeepnTrack, School Gate Guardian, and School Checkin.⁹

As notated in the features list below, all of these management programs allow school personnel to perform a thorough screen of visitors who enter the building - including a criminal background check. And, they all provide check-in/check-out data.

⁷ *Now is the Time to Do Something About Gun Violence*. Retrieved from The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/preventing-gun-violence?sid=59154861#submitted>

⁸ Jain, A. (2012, September 9). *Three Characteristics of Successful Visitor Management Programs*. Retrieved from Security Magazine: <http://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/83482-three-characteristics-of-successful-visitor-management-programs>

⁹ *Top Visitor Management Software 2014 Reviews*. (2014, September 5). Retrieved from Capterra: <http://www.capterra.com/visitor-management-software>

But, there is one glaring shortcoming to the existing visitor management programs. None of them provide a way to track the movement of visitors who are in the school. Once visitors pass the initial security check point, they tend to have unrestricted access to all areas of the school. This presents a considerable risk.


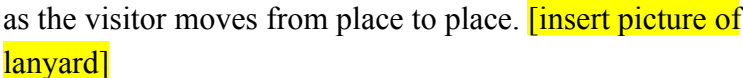
Features:	Raptor V	Hall Pass	KeepnTrack	School Gate Guardian	School Checkin
Checks for sex offender/predators	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
License scan	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Print visitor badge	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Tracks visitor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason for visit • Time arrived • Time left • Destination 	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
RFID tags / barcode tag for frequent visitors	no	yes	no	yes	yes
Alerts admin and law enforcement via text message when there are unauthorized visitors	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Child custody management	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Criminal background check	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Time expiring visitor ID badge	no	no	no	yes	no
Tracks visitor movement within the building	no	no	no	no	no

Figure 3 Sources: Raptor V <http://www.raptortech.com/>
School Gate Guardian- <http://www.schoolgateguardian.com/>
Hall Pass- <http://www.hallpassid.com/>
KeepnTrack- <http://www.keepntrack.com/>
School Checkin- <http://www.schoolcheckin.co>

The Indoor Tracking Solution

Like the name suggests, indoor tracking technology can track the physical location of people and assets within a building or structure. CausBuzz, Inc. offers an indoor tracking technology to schools called CausBuzz Maps. CB Maps provides schools the ability to pinpoint and track the exact location of visitors within a school. Moreover, CB Maps provides school personnel with on-site, emergency communication capabilities that raises the level of safety exponentially.

The technology that CausBuzz uses for their CausBuzz Maps program is based on Bluetooth low-energy. It consists of two core components:

1. Stationary Bluetooth beacons that are placed throughout a facility. Each beacon transmits a signal that has a unique identification. 
2. The receiving device (eg. lanyard or mobile phone). The device reads the signal and the signal strength from the beacons as the visitor moves from place to place. 

Here is an example of how indoor tracking is used to monitor visitors to a school:

An actor from a theater improv group visits a class at a school. When she arrives, she signs in by showing her driver's license at the front desk. The license is scanned and the system takes her information and assigns it to a lanyard which is worn around her neck as a badge. The theater group has previously arranged the visit with the school and the school has selected the classroom the actor will be visiting. The front desk enters the classroom number into the system interface. All of the subsequent steps after this are automated. The visitor is free to walk within designated areas to the classroom without need of an escort. The system keeps tabs on the visitor to make sure she does not wander outside of the designated areas assigned by the system. If she does wander, the front desk is notified. School personnel can immediately see the visitor's location on a map and determine how they may need to intervene.

Here's an example of how teachers/staff can use the technology in an emergency medical situation;

An elementary school teacher is escorting her students back to class from Music. As the class walks down the stairs one of her students accidentally trips on their shoelace and falls down a flight of stairs. The teacher immediately presses the medical alert button on her device. The school nurse receives an automatic alert message stating that there is a medical emergency in the east stairway on the 3rd floor. The nurse is able to respond right away.

Here's an example of using the emergency alert in a threatening situation:

In the hallway after lunch, two high school students began arguing over a football game. One of the students became very angry and started cursing at the other student. In response to the offensive language, the other student began to threaten the first student with physical violence. A crowd of bystanders quickly developed. A teacher that was nearby quickly pushed the button on his lanyard device to immediately alert school personnel about the type of incident and the exact location. The teacher then attempted to separate the two students. The school security guard and assistant principal were able to arrive at the scene quickly to provide assistance.

CausBuzz Maps: The Solution

CausBuzz Maps provides two levels of security for schools. For security personnel, the system tracks the location of visitors to the school. For teachers and staff, it is a means for real-time, emergency communication.

CausBuzz Maps uses state-of-the-art technology to increase school security and reduce the possibility of threatening attacks. Best of all, CausBuzz Maps works seamlessly with most existing security and data-based software programs.